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LETTER DATED 27 MAY 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the information on the effects of sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the fields officially exempted from the sanctions.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Information on the effects of sanctions in the fields officially exempted from the sanctions

In the context of resolving the crisis in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the United Nations Security Council has adopted a number of resolutions, including resolutions 757 (1992) and 787 (1992), by which it imposed sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Resolution 757 (1992) of 30 May 1992 prohibits any trade between the States Members of the United Nations and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, use of Yugoslav vessels and aircraft, business activities with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and all financial transactions with persons and entities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and freezes all Yugoslav assets in foreign banks. Furthermore, Yugoslav aircraft are denied overflight and landing permits, the level of the staff in the Yugoslav diplomatic and consular missions has been reduced, Yugoslav representatives are prohibited to participate in sporting events abroad and scientific, technical and cultural cooperation has been suspended. Only the import to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of foodstuffs, medicine and basic humanitarian aid is exempted from the sanctions.

Resolution 787 (1992) of 16 November 1992 tightened further the sanctions imposed by resolution 757 (1992). Transshipment of important commodities and products (crude oil and petroleum derivatives, coal, energy-related equipment, iron, steel and other metals, chemicals, rubber, tyres, vehicles, aircraft and motors of all types) through the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been prohibited to ensure that they are not diverted to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. However, a possibility is provided that the transshipment of the above commodities and products can be realized on a case-by-case basis only when indispensable with specific authorization of the Committee established by resolution 724 (1991). At the same time, the control of vessels in the Yugoslav ports and on the Danube has been increased.

The Sanctions Committee granting approval for exports of products to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which are exempted from the sanctions comprises United Nations Security Council member States in New York.

In the meantime, the Security Council adopted its resolution 820 (1993) tightening further sanctions unprecedented in the history of the United Nations.

Effects

In the conditions of the already grave economic crisis that affected our country, the imposition of the sanctions has aggravated even further the situation and threatened the economic, health and social situation and the lives of an increasing number of people. Resolution 757 (1992), by imposing the economic blockade, violates fundamental human rights and freedoms by creating such living conditions for the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in which it is frequently impossible to meet basic human needs. For example, by

suspending all financial and monetary transactions with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the payment of foreign retirement benefits to their beneficiaries in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been suspended in direct contravention of article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which guarantees the right of every one to social benefits and insurance.

Despite two resolutions of the World Health Assembly providing that health and health services can never be subject to sanctions (resolutions WHA 41.31 and WHA 42.24), Yugoslavia has been facing a dramatic situation in the last few months owing to the failure to respect these two resolutions. Lack of medicine and spare parts for medical equipment, coupled with the general decline in the living standard, has impaired the health of the population. Health services in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are much dependent (95 per cent) on the import of medicine, ingredients necessary for their production, medical and bandage supplies, equipment and spare parts and all other products for medical purposes. Owing to the sanctions and the unnecessarily long procedure for granting import approvals, the production of medicine in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has almost come to a halt. Presently, there is a shortage of over 50 per cent of drugs necessary for primary health protection: antibiotics, cardiotonics, diuretics, antihypertension preparations, medicine in ampoules, anaesthetics, blood transfusion equipment, etc.

The life of about 5,000 patients dependent on dialysis is in danger since the available dialysis reserves will be sufficient for less than one month. Several thousand people having malignant diseases are facing the same destiny. The cases of tuberculosis are increasing, particularly among the refugees coming from the former Bosnia-Herzegovina who are collectively accommodated in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. At Yugoslav psychiatric clinics (with about 3,000 patients) the mortality rate is dramatically increasing since there are no tranquilizers and the obsolete method of tying people to beds and administering electric shocks are used. Diagnostic facilities for daily application and medical equipment that are being imported and which can no longer be maintained regularly by their foreign suppliers, such as nuclear magnetic resonance, computerized tomography, laser equipment, etc. constitute a particular problem. The lives of patients on long waiting lists for surgeries since the summer of 1992 are also endangered.

A particular problem lies in the procedure for approving the exports of medicine and spare parts for medical equipment since some countries have created insurmountable obstacles, which is in flagrant violation of the principles of humanity. Let us take the example of the approval for the import of a modern German-made scanner for cancer detection in children, which has a small number of parts made in the United States of America. The United States Government insisted in the Committee established by resolution 724 (1991) that separate applications for approval should be submitted for each part, although the value of some of them is only several hundred dollars, which extends the procedure to several months, although the equipment is intended for the treatment of children rather than for war.

According to statements by officials of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 15 per cent of children in the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia are undernourished, while the diet of one third of the households is poor in vitamins.

Infections are spreading in our hospitals and reserves of drinking-water purifiers (natrium chloride) in towns are almost exhausted. Resulting epidemics could devastate whole settlements and towns.

An increased mortality rate is evident and, although all statistical data are not yet available, a characteristic example is the Emergency Centre of the University Clinic Centre in Belgrade where, in 1991, 238 patients with polytraumas were treated with the mortality rate of 26.9 per cent, and, in 1992, 223 patients with the mortality rate of 46.06 per cent, owing to the lack of emergency diagnosis and treatment facilities.

It is well known that, besides civilians, a large number of the wounded from the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are being treated also in military medical institutions of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which, though under a great burden, have been lacking medical equipment and medicine as a result of the sanctions prohibiting their import. As a consequence, the daily loss is over $100,000, i.e. over $30 million for 10 months.

In the field of agriculture, although food production is exempted from sanctions, the import of 37.5 million cubic metres of natural gas necessary for the production of fertilizers has not been approved, which will considerably and adversely affect planting, and wheat production will be reduced by about 500,000 tons, causing a loss of $75 to $80 million and a dangerous shortage of food for the population.

Although humanitarian aid is exempted from the sanctions, their imposition very much aggravates, complicates and slows down its normal flow. The Yugoslav Red Cross is a witness to a long and complex procedure to obtain approval from the Committee established by resolution 724 (1991). Delivery of the largest part of humanitarian aid through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies creates great problems to donor societies, since they should obtain the necessary approvals themselves, while delivery of aid to other parts of former Yugoslavia presents almost no difficulty with respect to the procedure and delivery terms. Humanitarian relief deliveries have been frequently held back at border crossings, particularly with Hungary, so that sometimes the aid is being reduced and delayed; frequently, it never reaches its destination or is sent back to its sender, although it is obvious that humanitarian aid is in question.

The Serbian Orthodox Church has been facing a similar situation. It has been prevented from importing items necessary for performing church services (candles, incense) which, practically, brings into question the normal church activity in the areas inhabited by Orthodox Serbs. The suspension of air and maritime traffic resulted in the cessation of a rapid and effective flow of humanitarian aid organized by the Orthodox churches in European and overseas countries. Humanitarian aid, drugs, foodstuffs, clothes, etc. sent through the Board of the Serbian Orthodox Church to the people and refugees affected by war are invaluable. However, its efficiency is threatened because it is impossible for it to reach the most affected areas for lack of fuel.

Because of the blockade at border crossings, the humanitarian aid sent to the Church is frequently and without any reason returned to the sender or is lost, thus never reaching its destination.

Consequently, hospitals treating the wounded and other patients are deprived of indispensable medicine, infants of their food and items of personal hygiene and many refugees cannot meet their basic needs.

Transport of humanitarian aid is much more expensive since it does not reach Yugoslavia, and the Serbian Orthodox Church is particularly affected by the suspension of the Yugoslav Airlines flights, which transported the aid free of charge.

Educational institutions of the Serbian Orthodox Church, seminaries and the Theological School, in the absence of foreign aid, are facing an unenviable situation and have been forced to reduce their capacities. For the same reason, the construction of churches and restoration of monasteries as cultural and historical monuments has stopped. The damage suffered by the Serbian Orthodox Church alone, because of the sanctions, is evaluated at over $100 million.

The greatest burden of the inhumanely imposed sanctions and all their effects are borne by the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the over 600,000 refugees it has received. If such a situation continues, they will face the gravest economic, health and social problems that will have to be solved by future generations. According to the appeal of the United Nations inter-agency body, $150 million are necessary for the April-December 1993 period as aid to refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in order to alleviate their plight at least to some extent.